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Royal College of General Practitioners

National Audit of Dementia
(Care in general hospitals)

October 2009 / Issue 2

UPDATE ON THE AUDIT...

Contents

Update on the audit	1
Overview of the core audit modules	2
Overview of the enhanced audit modules	3/4
Standard sources for audit	5
Contacting the project team	5

We have achieved a satisfactory participation response from general hospitals across England and Wales. If you have eligible hospitals in your trust that have not yet registered for the core audit, it is not too late! We also have a few places left for hospitals who are interested in nominating wards for the enhanced audit.

The audit tools for core audit and enhanced audit are currently in pilot on 7 sites. Deadline for submission of pilot data is **23 October 2009**. The Steering Group will review the results and make necessary amendments before audit starts in 2010. As pilot results may produce changes before national roll out early next year, we are not yet able to send a pro forma of the audit tools to participating hospitals. However an overview of the audit modules and the sources of the standards is included here.

At present, the audit timeline remains as advised so the core audit is due to start in **January 2010** and the enhanced audit in **February 2010**.

You will receive your username and passwords in **December 2009** which will allow you to access the audit tools online. A management pack will be sent to the audits leads which will provide you with the relevant documents (e.g. guidance, hard copy of audit tools, information sheets, instructions for identifying patients for casenote audit).

It may be a good idea to set up an initial meeting with your clinical audit department, representatives from clinical governance and, if you are participating in the enhanced audit, staff from the participating wards so that your team is organised and prepared for data collection next year.

OVERVIEW OF THE CORE AUDIT MODULES

The core audit will involve all general acute hospitals across England and Wales.

The core audit consists of a hospital **organisational checklist** and a **case note audit**.

The Organisational Checklist

This will involve input from the audit lead, clinical audit department and/or junior doctors. It will consider the context within the general hospital that supports the care of people with dementia, such as:

- Governance including development of care pathway for dementia
- Delivery of care
- Mental health needs
- Discharge policy
- Information
- Recognition of dementia
- Training, learning and development
- Specific resources supporting people with dementia

The Casenote Audit

This will involve input from the audit lead, clinical audit department and junior doctors.

Casenotes will be identified through HES codes and will be carried out retrospectively. Instructions on how to identify dementia patients will be provided.

It will elicit evidence that standards relating to clinical care and treatment have been met for individual patients with dementia admitted to the hospital. This will include:

- Demographic information
- Assessment (medical assessment; cognitive assessment; social and environmental assessment; information about the person with dementia; distress, agitation and behaviour that challenges; discharge planning)
- Discharge (assessment before discharge; discharge coordination and MDT input; support for carers and family)
- Liaison psychiatry
- Outcomes (patient's usual residence at admission; discharge destination; changes to needs and abilities; length of stay)
- Other (continuity of care; record keeping)

OVERVIEW OF THE ENHANCED AUDIT MODULES

Will be limited to between 50 and 75 general hospitals; each participating hospital will have nominate two-three wards. The enhanced audit consists of a **ward organisational checklist, environmental checklist, staff questionnaires, carer/patient questionnaires and observation (of care interactions)**.

The Environmental Checklist

This will involve input from a ward sister/ manager or equivalent, clinician from local team doing the audit collection, and a lay person (e.g. carer representative, board member or an advocate). It will gather information about aspects of the ward physical environment known to impact on people with dementia, such as:

- The ward
- Signage
- Floors
- Bed area
- Private/rest areas
- Nutrition
- Accessible toilet and bathing facilities
- Promoting independence

The Carer/Patient Survey

Ward staff to distribute questionnaires to patients at point of discharge from ward.

It will elicit the views of carers, friends and family members on the following:

- Information and communication
- Discharge planning and discharge
- The ward and its staff
- The bed area
- Food and drink
- Experiences of care
- Privacy and dignity
- General impressions of stay on ward

OVERVIEW OF THE ENHANCED AUDIT MODULES CONTINUED...

The Ward Organisational Checklist

This will involve input from a ward sister/ manager or equivalent.

It will look into input, policies and support on the ward, such as:

- Staffing
- Information available on the ward
- Nutrition
- Information and communication

The Staff Survey

This will involve all ward staff including: doctors; nurses; healthcare assistants; consultants; ward clerks; administrators; and any other disciplines with regular input to ward – e.g. liaison psychiatry services; occupational therapy; physiotherapy.

It will provide feedback from staff about:

- Learning and development relating to the care of people with dementia
- Experiences of training
- Experiences of the ward
- Communication and information sharing between staff
- Communication and information sharing between staff and carers/patients
- Nutrition support
- Access to support

Observation (of care interactions)

This will involve two staff members 2 per ward who will attend one day training session and to carry out structured observations.

It will evaluate the quality of the hour to hour provision of care to people with dementia and will consider:

- Person centred care
- Support and communication

SOURCES OF STANDARDS FOR AUDIT

- Age Concern
- Alzheimer's Society
- British Geriatrics Society
- Department of Health (National Service Framework for Mental Health)
- Healthcare Commission
- Help the Aged
- NPSA Protected Mealtimes Review
- National Audit Office
- National Dementia Strategy Objective 8
- Nice Guidelines
- Royal College of Psychiatrists
- Royal College of Physicians
- Royal College of Nursing

For more information on the National Audit of Dementia, please visit our website:

www.nationalauditofdementia.org.uk

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